GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:667
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DBTL for LPG
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Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the mechanism/guidelines prescribed for the Direct Benefit Transfer of LPG Scheme (DBTL)/PAHAL for LPG consumers along with the aims and objectives of the scheme and the extent to which the scheme has been successful in achieving its aims and objectives;
(b) whether linkage of Aadhaar Card with consumers bank accounts is mandatory under the Direct Benefit Transfer of LPG (DBTL) Scheme for all the LPG consumers to avail LPG subsidy and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the number of LPG consumers who have linked Aadhaar number to their bank accounts, State/UT-wise;
(c) the steps taken by the Government to prevent leakages in subsidy of domestic LPG cylinders for non-domestic applications after receipt of the subsidy by consumers in their bank account;
(d) whether the DBTL subsidy scheme has been helpful/successful in curbing fraudulent LPG distribution system and if so, the details thereof along with the number of fraudulent/ghost/fake connections identified and cancelled and action taken against responsible persons including the quantum of subsidy saved as a result thereof, State/UT-wise; and
(e) the details of LPG consumers who have voluntarily given up their LPG subsidy so far and whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government to do away LPG subsidy from rich/higher income bracket people and if so, the criteria fixed/study undertaken by the Government to determine the subsidy formula in this regard, State/ UT-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)
(a) LPG consumers, who join the PAHAL scheme, get the LPG cylinders at non-subsidised price and receive LPG subsidy (as per their entitlement) directly into their registered bank accounts. LPG consumers are required to become Cash Transfer Compliant (CTC) after seeding their bank accounts
and Aadhaar number to receive LPG subsidy in their registered bank account under PAHAL Scheme. The objectives of the scheme are as under :-
(i) To protect entitlement and ensure subsidy to the consumer.
(ii) To ensure saving of precious public money by eliminating diversion.
(iii) To improve the availability/delivery of LPG cylinders for genuine users.
(iv) To weed out fake/duplicate connections.
(v) To allow self selection in subsidy.
(b) Yes. The Government has issued circular requiring LPG consumers to seed their Aadhar number in LPG database for availing subsidy. As on 30.01.2017, out of 17.55 crore LPG customers enrolled under PAHAL Scheme, payment to 12.91 crore LPG customers is made through Aadhar Payment Bridge i.e. Aadhar number linked to their Bank Account.
(c) OMCs carry out regular surprise inspections at distributors premises, conduct refill audits, surprise checks at customers premises, en-route checking of delivery vehicles etc., to check black marketing and pilferage of cylinders. Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies(OMCs) take punitive action under the prevailing Marketing Discipline Guidelines(MDG) and the Distributorship Agreements against LPG distributors whenever irregularities are detected. (d) Implementation of PAHAL has resulted in identification of 3.34 crore and 3.56 crore ghost/fake/duplicate accounts during Financial Year 2014-15 and 2015-16 respectively. The total subsidy / under recovery on domestic LPG during the financial years 2014-15 and 2015-16 was Rs. 40569 crore and Rs 16074 crore, respectively. Lower subsidy during the last year is due to various factors, including introduction of direct transfer of subsidies into the accounts of consumers (PAHAL Scheme) and fall in international crude oil prices. (e) As on 29.01.2017, 1,05,46,090 LPG consumers have voluntarily given up/ surrendered their LPG subsidy. Government has also issued a circular stating that the benefit of the LPG subsidy will not be admissible for the LPG consumers, if the consumer or his wife/her spouse had taxable income of Rs. 10 lakh and above during the previous financial year computed as per the income Tax Act 1961.